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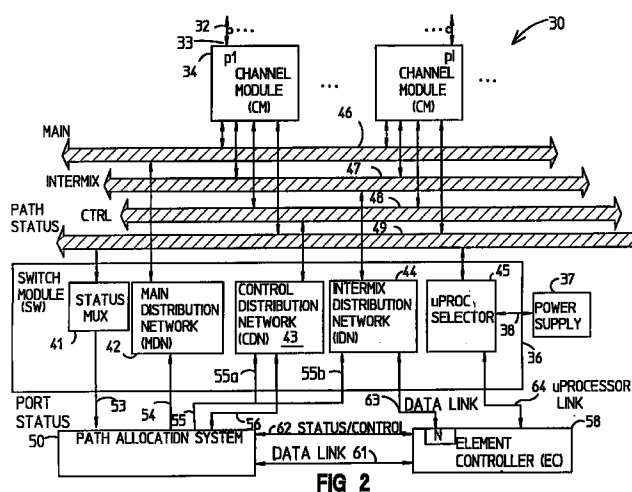
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(54) **Channel module for a fiber optic switch with a bit sliced memory architecture for data frame storage**

(57) A channel module (34) has an interchangeable port intelligence system (71a, 71b, 71c) at a front end which is connected to a memory interface system (72) at a back end. Each port intelligence system (71a, 71b, 71c) provides one or more ports (33) for connection to fiber optic channels (32) and, the various port intelligence systems (71a, 71b, 71c) are distinguishable by a particular bit rate in which each supports. Data from the port intelligence system (71a, 71b, 71c) is bit sliced and forwarded to the memory interface system (72). In the system (72), the data is stored in receive memory (84) in a distributed manner over a plurality of receive memory components (131). The bit slicing simplifies the input/output interface to the receive memory (84) and enables storage of data with a common format, regardless of the rate at which the data was received from the channel (32). When data is read from the receive memory (84), each of the receive memory components (131) contributes bits in order to reconstruct the data.



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 95 11 2589

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
A	EP-A-0 366 938 (I. B. M.) * the whole document * ---	1-10	H04L12/56 G06F15/173 H04Q11/00
A	GB-A-2 268 859 (NORTHERN TELECOM LIMITED) * the whole document * ---	1-10	
A	WO-A-93 19422 (KENT STEVEN) * page 4, line 10 - page 11, line 25 * * page 20, line 4 - page 26, line 12; claims; figures 1-11 * -----	1-10	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			H04Q G06F
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 26 March 1997	Examiner Soler, J
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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